

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 AGR-20 EB-11 CIAE-00 COME-00

INR-11 LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 PA-04 PRS-01

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R 260745Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2978

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STOCKHOLM 4287

DEPT PASS AGRICULTURE (FITZSIMMONDS)

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, EAGR, ETRD, SW

SUBJECT: GRAPE AND LETTUCE BOYCOTT; CHAVEZ VISIT TO STOCKHOLM

1. LO SECRETARY RUNE MOLIN ANNOUNCED SEPTEMBER 24 AT CLOSE OF SHORT VISIT TO STOCKHOLM BY CESAR CHAVEZ THAT LO WOULD ACTIVELY SUPPORT CONSUMER BOYCOTT DIRECTED AT CALIFORNIA GRAPE AND LETTUCE GROWERS WHO REFUSE TO SIGN AGREEMENTS WITH UFW, BUT ONLY AS PART OF CONCERTED INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN WHICH IS ONLY WAY, HE SAID, TO GET RESULTS. THIS WAS EXACTLY POSITION ARRIVED AT BY LO PRIOR TO CHAVEZ VISIT AND INDICATES LATTER ACCOMPLISHED VERY LITTLE OF CONCRETE NATURE BY HIS TALKS HERE. LO INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY ANDRE THIRIA TOLD LABATT SOME DAYS AGO THAT LO IS LOOKING TOWARDS FARM WORKERS' INTERNATIONAL TRADE

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SECRETARIAT (IFPAAW) FOR LEADERSHIP IN MOBILIZING INTER-

NATIONAL EFFORT. (FOR IFPAAW ATTITUDE SEE COPENHAGEN 2680).

2. CHAVEZ HELD PRESS CONFERENCE AT LO HEADQUARTERS SHORTLY BEFORE DEPARTURE. HE TOLD REPORTERS THAT GRAPE AND LETTUCE BOYCOTT IS OPERATING EFFECTIVELY IN US AND CANADA AND HAS RESULTED IN 12-15 PER CENT DECREASE IN SALES. IF 20 PER CENT FIGURE CAN BE REACHED GROWERS WOULD BE SERIOUSLY HURT. EXPLAINING EUROPE'S ROLE IN MATTER, CHAVEZ PREDICTED ON BASIS PAST EXPERIENCE THAT GROWERS WOULD ATTEMPT CUT LOSSES BY "DUMPING THEIR SURPLUSES" IN UK AND CONTINENT.

3. STORY RECEIVED DETAILED TREATMENT IN DAGENS NYHETER BUT APPEARED IN BACK SECTION. INEXPLICABLY, IT WAS NOT MENTIONED AT ALL IN LO-OWNED AFTONBLADET.

4. IN ADDITION TO TOP LO LEADERS, CHAVEZ MET WITH DIRECTOR OF SWEDISH FRUIT AND VEGETABLE IMPORTERS ASSOCIATION AND STOCKHOLM'S FINANCE COMMISSIONER. LATTER MEETING PRESUMABLY WAS RELATED TO DECISION TAKEN SEVERAL MONTHS AGO BY CITY AUTHORITIES NOT TO BUY CALIFORNIA GRAPES AND NON-UFW LETTUCE.

5. CHAVEZ LEFT STOCKHOLM HURRIEDLY AND EARLIER THAN PLANNED AFTER LEARNING THAT POPE WOULD GRANT HIM REQUESTED AUDIENCE IF HE COULD BE AT VATICAN BY MID-MORNING NEXT DAY. LABATT RELAYED MESSAGE AFTER TELEPHONE CALL FROM FATHER HIGGINS IN ROME.

6. THAT SAME EVENING AGATT WAS INFORMED BY SWEDISH IMPORTER THAT 2-MAN TEAMSTER DELEGATION IS EXPECTED ARRIVE IN STOCKHOLM SEPTEMBER 29 WITH AIM OF COUNTERACTING CHAVEZ INFLUENCE. DELEGATION SENT WORD AHEAD THAT AMONG PEOPLE IT WISHES TO MEET ARE AGRICULTURAL AND LABOR ATTACHES. STRAUSZ-HUPE

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